

MIKHAELA PAIGE REYES MENDOZA, MIDDLE SCHOOL WINNER, MOUNT CARMEL SCHOOL, 8TH GRADE: THE PROBLEM WITH “LINGUISTIC RACISM”

A problem that Asian Americans and Pacific Islanders (APIs) face is linguistic racism. It is a big problem because English might not be their first language. Therefore, they would not get treated the same way as English native speakers.

English is one of the main global languages spoken in many places. The English Language is a dominant language in a lot of places such as in business, work, science, research, school, government, and politics. The language is constantly evolving and adapting to new ways of saying different words and phrases. It's transforming in different ways because there are people who speak the language that use English in diverse ways.

However, there are still people that struggle with English. APIs struggle with English because it may not be their first language. They are considered non-native English speakers. Nonnative English speakers have this mindset that English is a higher language than their mother language. Which means that those who speak English, speak differently from what is considered “the standard way of speaking.” These speakers can find themselves being judged and even penalized for the way their English sounds.

In many countries, there are forms of English that can bring fewer benefits to a person. One example is African American English in the United States, the language is often misunderstood and discriminated against. On an international level, certain types of speakers face judgments based on any perceptions of their nationality, rather than their communication skills with people from that area. When English is spoken by Asians, Africans, or Middle Easterners, they are viewed as challenging and unpleasant to listen to as opposed to some Europeans such as French, Germans, and Italians when they speak English.

Linguistic racism can lead to the deprivation of education, employment, and health. API with certain accents get openly harassed or excluded from specific opportunities in the workforce. For example, a Puerto Rican customer service worker was told by a customer that “his stupid accent makes me sick.” An Arabic bus driver in London had a manager who kept him out of many conference calls.

Of course, not every person is intentionally a linguistic racist. People who think that they are being inclusive are not aware of their judgments because of their ingrained biases. Yet, whatever the cause of these incidents, people are still affected. With these kinds of ongoing and unrecognized situations, workers will be side-lined and excluded.

In what way can we stop linguistic racism and have a more functional way of using the language to benefit native and nonnative speakers? The best way to combat linguistic racism is to continue to stay in school, learn about different cultures, and to be a role model to others. We all speak different languages and it is important to embrace the diversity that we have in our islands. We can also be digitally responsible and respectful in speaking to others online.

Aleia Hofschneider Santos, High School Winner, Mount Carmel School, 12th Grade: Color

Peach is the name of the crayon shade that my classmates always used in their portraits when I was in kindergarten at Chinook Elementary in Washington from 2008–2009. I was

told that Tinian tanned skin was too dark to be using Peach, and that I should try using the dark brown crayon, called Chocolate. Peach was the color of the skin on the man I remember seeing through the windows of our first car in the states, as he screamed to my parents to “Go back to wherever the f\*\*\* you came from”. Peach was the skin tone of all the cops who came, as they patted myself and my family down, searching for the weapon that the first Peach man had lied about us having over the phone.

The choice that my parents made in raising our family in the states is better described as a sacrifice, especially considering how we continued to be discriminated against beyond my Kindergarten days. Years later, at one of my older brother's football games, a group of Peach toned boys told me to “Hop back over the border fence”. After I told my Mom about it, she held my hand tightly as we wiped our tears on the way back to the crowd filled bleachers. When my older sister came to pick me up for an appointment during a school day in fourth grade, the Peach colored front desk secretary told her “People like you don't attend a school like this”. I remember how it reminded me of how an after-school ice cream treat from my Dad turned into Peach colored Dairy Queen workers calling us “stupid Mexicans” through the drive through window.

There are still many memories I cherish despite the challenges we faced during our stay in the U.S., but I will never forget the events of that fateful fall day, nor will my Mom or Dad. I will never forget the look on my parents' faces as they were told to exit the vehicle, nor will I forget how scared I was when I saw them pointing guns at all of our faces. All of the fear and confusion from that day that we still feel years later is owed to one thing and one thing only: hatred. It was pure, unadulterated hatred that the Peach colored man felt toward not my family, but the color of our skin that caused it to happen. Yet, the worst part about all of this is things like this continue to happen around the world—hate crimes and other acts of discrimination are committed against countless other Asian American and Pacific Islander families in countless other ways every single day. Yet, every time I reflect on the question of how we can combat the hate many APIs face overseas, another question persists in my head: How can we stop the spread of hate out there if we struggle to combat it here, in our very own home islands?

After moving back to the CNMI in seventh grade, I quickly gained an understanding of the stereotypes that plague our own community. With each race came a heinous generalization: all Chamorros were lazy, all Carolinians were uneducated, all Filipinos were judgmental, all Koreans were terrible drivers, and the list, unfortunately, goes on. After hearing my classmate casually describe a person's eyes as “chinky”, I realized that while prejudice may be a catalyst for hate—the root of prejudice itself is ignorance. The ordeal led me to wonder how we, as APIs, are expected to remain silent in the face of deafening hatred.

While I may never be able to answer my own question, I can answer the question posed by this year's prompt: I hope to inspire our community to take action against racial discrimination and acts of hate by taking three simple steps. First, I encourage all victims and witnesses of API discrimination to not only speak out about what they've experienced, but against prejudice of any kind. In this pursuit, I implore others to speak

loudly about the deeply damaging and disheartening effects of racial discrimination when they feel that they are ready to. Most importantly, I ask that we all try to speak proudly of one another and what we have accomplished despite all the obstacles. Imagining the power that our community could hold in taking those steps fills me with a deep sense of faith in a better future for all of our families—no matter the color of our skin.

## TRIBUTE TO JENNIE COOK—28TH CONGRESSIONAL DISTRICT WOMAN OF THE YEAR

HON. ADAM B. SCHIFF

OF CALIFORNIA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Wednesday, May 18, 2022

Mr. SCHIFF. Madam Speaker, I rise today in honor of Women's History Month. Each year, we pay special tribute to the contributions and sacrifices made by our Nation's women. It is an honor to pay homage to outstanding women who are making a difference in my Congressional District. I would like to recognize a remarkable woman, Jennie Cook of Silver Lake, a unique neighborhood of Los Angeles, California.

Ms. Cook's passion for cooking and dedication to changing the way America eats manifests itself in her business as the owner and executive chef of Jennie Cook's Catering and Plant Based Parties, which she has operated for nearly four decades. Prior to that, she was the owner of Cook's Double Dutch Restaurant, where she created the Sustainable Supper Club, which offered a quarterly vegan family style meal. Jennie is also a columnist and in 2013 published her cookbook, “Who Wants Seconds?”

She also established the 24th Street Garden School Foundation, which provides a cooking class for third grade students in the garden, and founded The Mystery Lunch Box Challenge, a cooking competition class at Crenshaw and Jefferson High Schools. For several years, Jennie served as Chairwoman of the Board of RootDownLA, which educates children on how to grow, cook, share, and sell vegetables. Ms. Cook is a founding member of Food for Lunch!, which lobbied for healthier foods in the Los Angeles Unified School District.

Other volunteer activities include fundraising for the Silverlake Conservatory of Music's scholarship fund, assisting in the creation of the Los Angeles Chapter of Moms Demand Action, and organizing a monthly mixer in her neighborhood to celebrate the community. In addition, when her children were younger, she served on the boards of the Rose Scharlin Co-operative Nursery School, the Hilltop Nursery School, and the Sequoyah School.

Jennie and her husband of 45 years, John Cook, live in Silver Lake, and have three grown children.

I ask all Members to join me in honoring this exceptional, well-respected woman of California's 28th Congressional District, Jennie Cook.

RECOGNIZING MR. MICHAEL SWEENEY OF TEXAS' THIRD CONGRESSIONAL DISTRICT ACADEMY SELECTION BOARD

### HON. VAN TAYLOR

OF TEXAS

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

*Wednesday, May 18, 2022*

Mr. TAYLOR. Madam Speaker, today, it is my privilege to honor those members of Texas' Third Congressional District's Academy Selection Board whose longtime service to Texas and the U.S. Service Academies is to be commended.

These individuals exemplify the time honored qualities of patriotism, service before self, and bold leadership which in turn have enabled them to assist in seeking out our next generation of servant leaders qualified to lead our nation as military officers in training. Not only have these patriots worn the uniform in defense of America, following their time in service they have chosen to enrich their communities, most notably through their service on this Board. One such patriot is Mr. Michael "Mike" Sweeney.

Mike Sweeney is a 1966 graduate of distinction with the United States Naval Academy (USNA). During his time at USNA, he was a member of the undefeated 1964 NCAA Championship Soccer Team and was selected as Commander of the Brigade of Midshipmen during his senior year.

Following graduation, Mike served five years as a Surface Warfare Officer in the U.S. Navy including service in the Vietnam War. Upon return to civilian life, he would join Ross Perot's Electronic Data Systems (EDS) as a trainee starting a new career in information technology. EDS would be a great place for Mike to have a career as a Navy graduate—a workplace complete with blue suits, white shirts, and good opportunities.

Sweeney worked at EDS as a systems engineer developing health care systems before moving into management, and progressively increasing in responsibility as he relocated to the company's corporate headquarters. Along the way, he pioneered the concept of remote software engineering centers and was responsible for managing seventy centers in twenty-nine countries. His teams developed new business systems for General Motors, including OnStar. Later, Mike overhauled the company's corporate technical training and worked on corporate strategy.

Notably, during the dot-com era, he served as President of the E-Solutions global delivery organization and was responsible for corporate technology strategy, thought leadership and R&D. Mike retired after 31 years of loyal service at EDS.

In retirement, Mike enjoys bike riding, fly fishing, and riding his Harley with his Naval Academy roommate. He and his wife, Peggy, have made their home in Prosper and are the proud parents to two grown children and four grandchildren.

With gratitude we thank Mike Sweeney for his over 28 years of service on the Third Congressional District's Service Academy Selection Board. While his presence as a valued member of this organization will be deeply missed, we are honored to salute him for his longtime and dedicated efforts in nominating countless young patriots to the Service Academies.

HONORING THE PATRIOTIC SERVICE OF CHAD ANDERSON

### HON. PAT FALLON

OF TEXAS

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

*Wednesday, May 18, 2022*

Mr. FALLON. Madam Speaker, I rise today to honor Chad Anderson for his patriotic service to the City of Celina, Texas. As a City Councilman in Place 6, Chad served the City of Celina for three terms. The City of Celina sits just North of Dallas and has been a focal point of growth in the North Texas region for several years. Since 2010 the population of Celina has tripled, out pacing any other North Texas city. As a Councilman, Chad managed this explosive growth and ensured that the City was ready to take on new community members and new businesses.

One of his key policy priorities was the development of Celina's infrastructure. New roads, bridges, proper drainage, and public safety structures all bear the mark of Chad's thoughtfulness as a City Councilman. During his time in office, he never forgot about the heroes among us—law enforcement, firefighters, EMS, and all frontline workers. He ensured that the City kept its law enforcement funding when many cities throughout the country sought to defund. When firefighters needed modernized facilities and funding, Chad was their No. 1 ally.

In his 19 years in Celina, Chad has become a pillar of his community and, though he is no longer a City Councilman, will continue to be a servant leader who seeks to lift up everyone in his City. The foundation for all his service is, without a doubt, his wife Michele, and their two children, CJ and Molly.

Outside of his official work, Chad became the proprietor of his own insurance company in 2010 which gave him personal experience and insight into small business development and growth. He has also championed the Celina Cajun Fest, Oktoberfest and coached youth sports.

I have requested the United States flag be flown over our Nation's Capitol to recognize Chad Anderson's patriotism and devotion to God, Family, and Country. Furthermore, Madam Speaker, I would like to personally commend Mr. Anderson for his service to the City of Celina as a Councilman and I wish him all the best in his future endeavors.

HONORING NEW YORK DISTRICT KIWANIS CLUB GOVERNOR JAMES M. MANCUSO

### HON. JOHN KATKO

OF NEW YORK

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

*Wednesday, May 18, 2022*

Mr. KATKO. Madam Speaker, I rise today to honor New York District Kiwanis Club Governor, James M. Mancuso. As a longtime member of the Kiwanis Club, James has committed himself to philanthropic pursuits that have improved the lives of people across New York State.

Since its founding in 1915, members of the Kiwanis Club have devoted themselves to public service, focusing on initiatives that work for the betterment of their communities. Lead-

ers like James are the heart and soul of the Kiwanis Club, and the reason this organization has been so successful for over a century.

James Mancuso joined the Kiwanis Club in 2002 and immediately took to its mission of improving the world one child and one community at a time. James has served two terms as a Lieutenant Governor of the Long Island South Central Division and president of the East Meadow Club. He has also chaired committees on International Leadership, Youth Protection, and the Kiwanis International Children's Fund for the New York District. In October of 2021, James was promoted to New York District Kiwanis Club Governor, where he has continued his exemplary advocacy and volunteerism across New York State.

As a member of the Kiwanis Club, James has led numerous projects, most notably, building a Garden of Hope with the Kiwanis Club of East Meadow in partnership with Mothers Against Drunk Driving (MADD), Students Against Drunk Driving (SADD), and Nassau County. The garden included a sculpture depicting the aftermath of a drunk driving accident to encourage local residents not to get behind the wheel while impaired. He has also held many fundraisers that have benefited projects to get more infants vaccinated.

For his work, James has earned the Anton J. Kaiser Award, recognition from the New York District's Pediatric Lyme Disease Foundation, and an IBM Volunteers Gold Award Level for Volunteerism and Community Service.

Madam Speaker, I ask that my colleagues in the House join me in honoring the contributions of James M. Mancuso. A devoted volunteer and committed member of the Kiwanis Club, James has empowered members of his community through his philanthropic efforts.

RECOGNIZING THE DISTRICT OF COLUMBIA DEPARTMENT OF PUBLIC WORKS

### HON. ELEANOR HOLMES NORTON

OF THE DISTRICT OF COLUMBIA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

*Wednesday, May 18, 2022*

Ms. NORTON. Madam Speaker, I rise today to ask the House of Representatives to join me in celebrating Department of Public Works Employee Appreciation Day by recognizing the District of Columbia Department of Public Works.

The D.C. Department of Public Works provides a number of services, including trash and recycling collection, snow removal, parking enforcement, fleet management and supporting events and demonstrations.

The D.C. Department of Public Works is home to a workforce of 1,500 employees. Many of these employees are D.C. residents, and their hard work and services contribute to the upkeep, maintenance, productivity and growth of D.C. Today, D.C. residents are joining together to show our appreciation for our D.C. Department of Public Works employees.

Madam Speaker, again, I ask the House of Representatives to join me in celebrating Department of Public Works Employee Appreciation Day by thanking the D.C. Department of Public Works for its tireless work.